DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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BIG WAGE RAISES IN EAST GERMANY

Pit-workers' Pay Doubled — Prices Keep Going Down

Sweeping wage increases in the heavy industry of the German Democratic Republic, and big salary increases for specialists and engineers went into effect on July 1st.

The pay of highly qualified coal-miners, the men who receive the biggest raise, will be almost doubled.

The wage increases have not been accompanied by any increase in prices. On the contrary, prices in East Germany are steadily dropping. Most articles of food and clothing available in state shops have already been cut in price by as much as one third this year, and the Five Year Plan provides for further reductions in the near future.

The new pay raises apply to the following branches of industry: coal and ore mining, lignite industry, potash, metallurgical industry, shipbuilding, key factories in heavy engineering, and the railways.

All skilled workers in these industries will have bigger pay packets from this month. The average of the increases is about thirty percent, and ranges in the coal industry, for instance, from five percent raise for less qualified pit-head workers to 97 percent increase for highly qualified face workers.

Specialists, engineers, chemists and teachers at technical institutes will have big salary increases, which in some individual cases will treble present earnings.

Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl, announcing the increases, stated:

"This great new step forwards has only been made possible by the unlimited will to work shown by our people. The reconstruction of war-damage done to our economy has been completed, and we have now begun on the new construction, in accordance with the Five Year Plan.

"The great upsurge in our industry explains why we are able to devote more than 800 million marks annually to this new measure for increasing the standard of living.

"Our wage system is built upon the principle 'To each according to his ability.' Everyone in our Republic has the chance to continue his education and qualify himself, and thus to satisfy his desire for a higher standard of living.

"We believe for instance that qualified miners, in view of the difficulty and danger of their profession, should receive the highest

(cont. on p. 2)

Palace as restaurant

Royal palaces in East Berlin are being put to uses which Kaiser Wilhelm and his family never expected. The huge Kaiser's palace itself was gutted in an air-raid, and the ruins were carted away in 1951 to make room for the great Marx-Engels-Platz, scene of all big Berlin meetings and demonstrations.

The "Palace of the Princesses" on the Unter den Linden was badly damaged, but is now being repaired to serve as a fine restaurant and cafe for the rebuilt Opera House next door.

The Crown Prince's Palace, after restoration, will become the headquarters of the Democratic Women's League.

According to present plans this restoration work, which will once again make Unter den Linden into Berlin's "Piccadilly", will be completed by the end of 1953.

West Germany Makes Arms, Germs

The arms firm of Krupps is already back at work making tanks in the Bavarian town of Allach, according to sensational facts and figures on West German arms production published by the Berlin newspaper "Neues Deutschland."

The firm B. M. W. in Allach, Bavaria is turning out over 200 tanks with 800 H. P. motors every three months, the paper stated. In addition gun carriers and many thousands of armoured cars are being produced.

Factories of the I. G. Farben concern are turning out white phosphorus, used in fire bombs, at the rate of over 6000 tons annually. A further factory is being constructed at Waldhut with a capacity of 1800 tons yearly.

In the Mannheim factory of I. G. Farben a total of 12,000 workers are employed in the manufacture of gases and other chemicals for military purposes.

The UDM factory in Werdohl in Bavaria is turning out detonators.

A factory at Neumuenster, British Zone, is producing hand grenades at the rate of 5000 per hour.

The Bochumer Verein factory in the Ruhr is making 8.8 and 10.5 centimetre shell casings marked C. F.

At Plochingen, American Zone, large numbers of MG 42 machine guns are being produced.

At Velbert, near Duesseldorf, the firm of Engels and Wenke is making hand grenades.

The Linhoff factory in Munich supplies special optical instruments to the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.

Nazi germ war experts are back at work in West Germany, continuing experiments in bacteriological warfare which they started under Hitler, according to reports from Frankfurt, American Zone.

At the I. G. Farben laboratories in Wuppertal Professor Walter Kikuth, specialist in sleeping sickness, is in charge of the experiments. Other research is being done in Lueneburg, British Zone, by Professor Kunert, who during the war headed the "Hygiene Institute" in Lodz, Occupied Poland, which cooperated closely with the S. S. in its extermination campaigns.

(cont. from p. 1)

BIG WAGE RAISES IN E. GERMANY

wages. In the western part of our homeland the miners and other workers have to struggle and strike to win a wage increase of a few pennies but here the government cooperates with them in improving their wages.

"The wage increases affect foremen in the whole of nationally-owned industry, the scientists and technicians in all important branches of industry, and the skilled workers in all key branches.

"It is obvious why we are making the increases here. We must develop our industry from the bottom up. At the key-points we must logically continue the development which has already begun.

"The wage increases now decided represent only a beginning. By May 1st 1953 at the latest, the government, in consultation with the trade unions, will have worked out proposals for wage increases for qualified workers in the other branches of industry, in the post office, and on the nationally-owned estates and tractor stations.

"The better the present increases serve to boost production the sooner further measures can be taken."

The introduction to the government decree on bigger salaries for technicians stated:

"The new system of payment will encourage unskilled workers to develop into skilled workers, and will help skilled workers to increase their knowledge and in time to develop into technicians, engineers and scientists."

Soviets Reject Western Protest

General V. I. Chuikov, Chairman of the Soviet Control Commission in Germany, rejected on June 19th a protest made by the western High Commissioners against alleged East German steps to split Germany.

The Western allegations were contained in notes sent on May 25th 1952 which complained of various measures which had been taken on the demarcation line between East and West Germany.

In his reply General Chuikov pointed out that several frontier crossing points had been closed because of the very small traffic passing through; an average of ten to fifteen vehicles monthly did not justify the presence of control officials, he stated.

"The various changes in the control service on the railways and roads has made no difference to the volume of traffic between West Berlin and West Germany, which has actually increased recently," General Chuikov stated.

"The charge made in your note, that the measures taken by the government of the German Democratic Republic to strengthen the protection of the demarcation line between East and West Germany are contrary to the interests of the German people, is completely groundless. These measures have been made necessary, as you know, by the terrorist diversionary and espionage activities of the agents of foreign spy services, who were sent from West Germany and West Berlin into the German Democratic Republic.

"West Berlin plays a particular role in this work, since it has become a breeding ground for espionage, diversionary activities and provocations against the German Democratic Republic. These acts are carried out under the leadership of the espionage services of the United States, Great Britain and France.

"Under these circumstances it was naturally necessary for the government of the German Democratic Republic to take steps to protect the interests of the population of the Republic, steps which became particularly necessary after the signature of the separate treaty in Bonn.

"You are undoubtedly aware of the fact that the order issued by the government of the German Democratic Republic lays down clearly that the control measures will be raised as soon as agreement has been reached on the holding of free all-German elections with the aim of establishing a united democratic and peace-loving Germany."

* * *

On June 30th the western High Commissioners replied to General Chuikov with a note stating that the reasons he gave for the frontier measures "are not worthy of serious consideration."

"All these measures serve to split Germany" the western note declared.

On the sabotage front

Seven students of the Halle University have been sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for their activities as spies and saboteurs.

Jakob Adam, a 21 year old student sentenced to ten years hard labour, confessed in court that he had acted as an agent for the United States Counter Intelligence Corps. Evidence was given that he had been arrested as he was leaving Halle for Berlin. He was carrying blueprints and plans stolen from a nationally owned factory, and information about units of the Soviet army.

A group of six other students, who had carried out espionage and industrial sabotage on the orders of the West Berlin "Fighting Group Against Inhumanity," which is partly financed by the American Ford Foundation, were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from 13 years to 3½ years.

*

Security officials at Freiburg in Saxony have arrested three agents of the U. S. espionage service, it was announced in Berlin. They were equipped with sabotage material, including "fountain pens" filled with explosives, and inflammatory ampoules of the type used by arsonists.

U. S. Planes Violate E. German Territory

Two United States planes flew deep into the territory of the German Democratic Republic on June 19th, Major General Trussov, Soviet Deputy Chief of Staff in Germany, stated in a protest note to the American occupation authorities.

In his note Major General Trussov demanded that strong measures be taken to prevent such occurences in the future, and recalled that he had had to make similar protests on May 26th and June 7th this year.

Americans Shoot at Railwayman

The Soviet authorities have protested to the American military authorities in Germany that shots were fired from an American military train passing between West Berlin and West Germany. The shots were aimed at a People's Policeman and the stationmaster of Babelsberg station.

The U. S. authorities, in a reply, claimed that the shots had been "only" fireworks.

World Peace Council in Berlin

Leaders of the peace movement from all parts of the world attended the meeting of the World Peace Council in Berlin which opened on July 1st. The meeting was expected to produce far-reaching decisions on the German and other problems.

Welcoming the meeting the Berlin "Neues Deutschland" (Socialist Unity Party) stated:

"All peace-loving Germans give the heartiest greeting to the meeting of the World Peace Council in Berlin. They are grateful for the great fraternal help given them by the world peace camp, and give the pledge that they will further strengthen the fight against the Bonn War Treaty and in favour of a peace treaty, helped by the decisions of the World Peace Council."

Noted author Anna Seghers, writing in the Berlin "Taegliche Rundschau" stated:

"Berlin has experienced many councils of war, in the time of Bismarck, Kaiser Wilhelm, Hitler and Goering. In West Germany today the generals and war criminals are at work again, and West Berlin is dubbed, 'front-line town'.

"In the Democratic part of Germany, freed by the Soviet army, we welcome the World Peace Council, which has the task of reducing tension between the peoples and dealing with all proposals which can help to safeguard peace."

British Pacifist Can't Visit W. Germany

British pacifist leader Stuart Morris has been refused a visa to visit West Germany, the London "Peace News" reports.

"When Stuart Morris was in Germany last autumn the police banned his meeting at Munich, as the Americans had tried to do a year earlier. His German visa expired on June 11th, and having been asked to go as a delegate from the National Peace Council to a conference at Copenhagen on 'The Solution of the German Problem' he applied for a renewal at the German Consulate.

"On going to get his passport back he was informed that the visa (even a transit visa) had been refused on the instructions of the Allied High Commission in Germany.

"A strong protest has been made to the Foreign Secretary, for there can be no other reason for this high-handed refusal than that Stuart Morris has opposed German rearmament and the ratification of the Contractual Agreement both in Germany and in this country."

EAST GERMANY SMASHES ECONOMIC BLOCKADE

By producing high-grade smelting coke from lignite, the German Democratic Republic has smashed western attempts to throttle the young steel industry.

At the end of June the newly constructed Lauchhammer Coking Plant, where the coke is produced by a new method from lignite or soft coal, was getting under full production.

At the opening of the first coke-oven, Deputy Prime Minister Heinrich Rau stated:

"Our natural source for coal and coke, the Ruhr, is in the hands of the enemies of our construction. The Ruhr is held by the western imperialists, who attempt to hinder our construction by stopping the exchange of goods across the zonal frontier.

"Despite the existence of valid contracts on interzonal trade the Bonn government has banned all transports of coal and coke to us in the past few months.

"It is obvious that we cannot base our growing metallurgical industry on the pious hope that the capitalist west will supply us with coal and coke. That is why it was so important to begin the large-scale production of smelting coke from lignite, since our supplies of lignite are adequate."

The new method of coke production has been developed by Professor Rammler and Dr. Bilkenroth, two scientists who have been awarded the National Prize for their pioneering work.

Steel production in the German Democratic Republic has not been brought to a halt by the American-inspired economic blockade, since coke was rushed from Poland and other East European countries to keep the blast furnaces burning.

The workers of the Lauchhammer Coking Plant have pledged themselves to complete three more coking ovens before the middle of July, in honour of the conference of the Socialist Unity Party which is meeting then.

WEST GERMAN FARMERS PROTECT THEIR FIELDS . . .

The farmers of Heidelberg - Rohrbach, American Zone, have driven off surveyors who wanted to measure their fields preparatory to building new barracks there.

Armed with sledge - hammers, pitch-forks and flails they drove off the surveyors and other persons doing preparatory work on the site.

The villagers are now taking it in turns to stand watch, and if new attempts are made to steal their fields the church bell will be sounded to summon help from the neighbouring villages.

Similar reports continue to come in from other parts of West Germany. In Todendorf, near Kiel, in the British Zone, where British troops are attempting to construct an anti-aircraft firing range, farmers and fishermen have combined to resist the attempt. Surveyors have so far been unable to carry out the work of preparing the range because their instruments and triangulation posts mysteriously "disappear" as soon as they are set up.

. . . BUT THESE HAVE BEEN SEIZED

The following is an incomplete list of the villages in West Germany which have been requisitioned in the past few months to make way for the huge new airfields, manoeuvre grounds and artillery ranges being constructed there.

Kaiserslautern district: Sembach, Neukirchen, Mehlingen, Balborn. Simdern district: Sohren, Buechenbeuren, Hahn, Bruehlerleck, Lohbeuren, Kirchberg. Bitburg district: Roehl, Moesch, Scharfbillig, Wolfsfeld, Dockendorf, Holsthum, Pfeffingen.

Wittlich district: Binnsfeld, Spangdahlen. Kreuznach district: Pferdsfeld, Essweiler, Rehbach, Ippenschied. Bingen district: Wakenheim, Essenheim.

Zweibruecken district: Hekernaschbacherhof, Althornbach, Mauschbach, Heidelbingerhof. Trier district: Kirf, Dittlingen, Kreuzweiler, Beuren, Mainz-Gonsenheim, Kasel, Taforst, Grueneberg, Olewig. Baumholder district: Aulenbach, Erzweiler.

Bergzabern district: Oberhausen, Niederotterbach, Oberotterbach, Doerrenbach, Deutschhof, Kaplaneihof. Marienburg district: Hof, Langenbach, Stein-Neukirch.

U. S. SENATORS WORRIED BY BONN WAR TREATY

By GERMAN REPORT Washington Correspondent

Every single non-governmental witness opposed American ratification of the Bonn War Treaty when the Senate Foreign Relations Committee heard testimony on the treaty on June 17th.

The whole course of the hearings, the questions asked of government spokesmen and the fact that a day had to be given to non-government spokesman, indicated that many senators are worried about the course of events in Germany.

The non-governmental witnesses included representatives of the American Labour Party, American Veterans for Peace, National Council for the Prevention of War and the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

All these witnesses stressed that the Bonn Treaty constituted a threat of war, and was a repudiation of the agreements reached at Potsdam.

Mr. Gerhard Hagelberg, speaking for the New York magazine "German American" to the Foreign Relations Committee stated:

"Most disturbing are the contents of Article V of the contractual agreement which provide that the western powers may proclaim a state of emergency in West Germany not only in the case of an attack on the Federal Republic or Berlin, but also in the event of any 'subversion of the liberal democratic basic order' or 'serious disturbance of public order.' Moreover, independently of any such state of emergency, any military commander may take immediate action, including the use of armed force, any time he thinks his troops are menaced.

"Anything can be done with such sweeping powers. It is well known, that a serious revival of nazism has taken place in West Germany during the last seven years under the occupation. Chancellor Konrad Adenauer himself admitted last October that 134 officials in his foreign office are former members of the nazi party. Is American blood to be shed to protect these elements in the event that the German people should decide to throw them out of office?

"We believe that the contractual agreement with West Germany and the annexe to the North Atlantic Treaty are in the interests of neither the American nor the German people. Our United States Congress is likely to lose in effect the power to determine when and where American troops are to be involved in hostilities.

"As a result we may wake up one morning to find that American blood is being shed to prevent a West German government from withdrawing from the European Defence Community, or to suppress an attempt by the German people to replace the admittedly neo-fascist government of Chancellor Adenauer, or to support a provocation engineered by those elements in West Germany which seek the forceful overthrow of the East German government and the recovery of the territories beyond the Oder-Neisse line.

"Army Chief of Staff General J. Lawton Collins testified before this committee that there 'inevitably' will be a revival of the spirit of German imperialism if West Germany rearms and joins the European Defence Community."

West German Peace Organisations Find Common Ground

Representatives of all shades of anti-war opinion met for the first time at Nuremberg on June 22nd at the "Bavarian Peace Conference" and resolved joint action against the war policy of the West German government.

Organisations represented at the conference included the German Peace Society, the Quakers, the International Peace Federation, the Bavarian Workers' Committee against Remilitarisation, the Federation of Conscientious Objectors, and many others.

Two of the delegates were members of the Christian Democratic Union, five were Social Democrats, four Communists, and four members of the Bavarian Party. The other delegates had no political affiliations.

Addressing the conference the young trade unionist Ludwig Fischer stated: "Let us make sacrifices now, while there is still time, rather than sacrifice our lives later on the battlefield. Rather a general strike now than a general war later."

More than 200,000 people in Hessen, American Zone, have so far given their votes in the referendum against the Bonn Treaty and in favour of a peace treaty with Germany organised by the "Committee for German Understanding." Almost as many votes have been given in Lower Saxony, British Zone, according to preliminary reports.

Bonn Forced to Deal with Nazi Diplomats

Forceful criticism in Germany and abroad has forced the West German government to take steps to purge some of the more notorious nazis from the Bonn Foreign Ministry.

The uproar followed the publication in West German newspapers, and in GERMAN REPORT of March 28th 1952, of statistics showing that over 85 percent of leading Foreign Ministry officials were former members of the nazi party.

The investigation committee established by the West German government attempted to whitewash the Foreign Ministry as a whole, but was forced to admit that top officials have "permitted a group of former nazis to recruit their old colleagues."

The committee described Werner von Bargen, Minister for Special Duties in the Legal Department of the Foreign Ministry as "absolutely unsuitable" for the post. During the war von Bargen was attached to the nazi military government in occupied Belgium, and signed a telegram to Ribbentrop speaking in commendatory terms of the "speedy individual actions taken to net Jews."

The committee stated that another former leading nazi, Werner von Grundherr, West German Minister in Athens, had now submitted his resignation. Under Ribbentrop, von Grundherr headed the Scandinavian section of the nazi Foreign Ministry. When the nazi governor of occupied Denmark reported that he intended to deport 6000 Jews with their wives and children to the gas-ovens, von Grundherr cabled back "How many S. S. men do you need?"

* * *

Net result of the work of the investigating commission is expected to be that a few of the more obviously incriminated nazis will be removed, leaving the percentage of former nazis in leading positions at about 80 percent instead of the present 85 percent.

The very fact that this small purge has been carried out however, shows how effective public protest can be.

Ten Year Jail for Fighting Nazis

The district court of Bochum, British Zone, has sentenced former German soldier Fritz Kurztusch to ten years imprisonment for fighting against Hitler. In 1943 Kurztusch, who was serving on the eastern front, went over to the Soviet army, after shooting four other soldiers who tried to stop him. He later served in the anti-nazi "Free Germany" committee.

S. S. "Old Pals" Get Together

Associations of former members of Hitler's S. S. and S. A. have sprung up throughout West Germany following the signature of the Bonn Treaty on May 26th, according to reports reaching Berlin.

One effect of the treaty has been the cancellation of previous allied orders declaring the S. S., the S. A. and the Gestapo to be illegal organisations.

These and other nazi organisations were declared illegal by Allied Proclamation No. 2, signed on September 20th 1945 by Marshal Sokolovsky (Soviet Union), General Eisenhower (U. S. A.), Field Marshal Montgomery (Great Britain), and General Koeltz (France). This proclamation stated in paragraph 11, sub-section 38 that "the National Socialist Party is fully and finally dissolved and declared illegal." Other sections laid down similar regulations for all subsidiary nazi organisations.

After the signature of the Bonn Treaty the western High Commissioners informed the West German government in an exchange of letters that this key proclamation was no longer in force.

Hitler's Banker Back at Old Stand

Hjalmar Schacht, Hitler's financial wizard who financed the nazi rearmament programme, has gone back into business again, opening a bank in Hamburg under the name "Hjalmar Schacht & Co." with a capital of one million marks.

British Tax-payers to pay for West German Arms

Britain will have to bear part of the burden of re-arming West Germany, the London "New Statesman and Nation" noted on June 21st.

"Mr. Eden has gaily signed away our right to occupation costs in Germany after June of next year," the paper stated. "Instead of the Germans contributing 360,000,000 dollars annually to the cost of the British Army of the Rhine, we are to contribute up to this amount of dollars each year for the rearmament of Germany."

West German Army may attack west — Lippmann

The Bonn treaty does not mean that West Germany is permanently tied to the western powers, and the re-constituted Wehrmacht might well attack the west, warned columnist Walter Lippmann in the New York Herald Tribune on June 23rd.

"As the Western Germans rearm, they will become the strongest continental force in the western alliance. With that power they will find a way, they are bound to find a way, to reunite Germany and to end the occupation," Walter Lippmann stated.

"If they cannot achieve this primary irreducible national objective with us, they will do it, if necessary, against us."

THE CENSOR OF ST GEORGE'S SQUARE

The Association of Engineering and Shipbuilding Draughtsmen

96 St. George's Square,
London S. W. 1
16th June, 1952
Reference: JY/HA/G

Dear Sir,

Apparently your organisation has obtained a copy of our journal, "The Draughtsman", on which are to be found the addresses of our branch and other officials, and have been sending them a copy of a publication called "Democratic German Report". No circulation of our officials should be done without permission, and I have to indicate that on this occasion we are not prepared to agree to circulation taking place.

Yours faithfully,

James Young, General Secretary.

DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

Friedrichstrasse 167/III
Berlin W 8
June 25th 1952

Dear Sir,

The trade union movement in Britain has a long and proud tradition. I have never heard thath that tradition included censorship of reading matter by the General Secretary of the union.

As a trade unionist myself, I am confident that the members of your union have enough sense to decide for themselves what to read. If they are interested in GERMAN REPORT and the news it brings them, they will take out a subscription. If they are not interested then they will undoubtedly let us know. Whether they write to us or not I sincerely hope that many of them write to you and tell you just what they think about your petty attempt at censorship.

In any case, whether you give your unwanted "permission" or not, GERMAN REPORT will continue to reach thousands of trade unionists in Britain and other countries, bringing them news of the danger of war represented by the re-formation of the nazi Wehrmacht in West Germany; keeping them informed of the blows aimed against the trade union and workers movement there; and telling them of the great work being done in East Germany, with the full cooperation of the trade unions, to build a decent peaceful Germany.

In any case thank you for your letter. I am sure that it will encourage readers of GERMAN REPORT who are union members to send us the addresses of officials in their unions who would be interested in receiving a trial subscription to the paper.

Yours faithfully,

John Peet.

P. S. The text of your letter of June 16th and this reply will of course be published in the next number of GERMAN REPORT. May I suggest that "The Draughtsman" should also publish this correspondence?

UNION MUST PAY SCABS

The labour court in Darmstadt, American Zone, has ordered the Metal Workers Trade Union to pay compensation to scabs for loss of wages during a strike in 1951. The blacklegs claimed that they had lost 6000 marks in wages when strike pickets stopped them from going to work.

East German Budget Shows Growing Stability

by Dr. Hans Loch (Liberal Democrat),
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the German Democratic Republic

The budget of the German Democratic Republic for 1952, in its facts and figures, gives proof of the growing strength of our Republic. The budget shows that we are continuing along the road of development in the standard of living, in culture, in education and health services, without allowing the hysterical war preparations of the imperialists in West Europe to divert us from our path.

The main figures of our 1952 budget are:

	million marks
Income	31,695.1
Expenditure	31,637.7
Balance	59.4
Balance carried forward from 1951	696.3
Total balance at the end of 1952	755.7

The fact that our budget is balanced wins particular importance when we take a look at West Germany. There the Federal Finance Minister Schaeffer had to admit in March that the deficit for the year would amount to at least 4,400 Million marks, and West German economic journals reckon that the deficit will amount to 5,200 million marks.

The income accruing to the state from nationally-owned industry is estimated to increase by 44.3 percent, from 2964 million marks in 1951 to 4276 million marks in 1952. This increasing income is the result of the increase in industrial production laid down by the Five Year Plan, and the increase in labour productivity and the reduction of costs.

Expenditure for the development of industry, mainly in the form of investments, will be greatly increased, from 3332 million marks in 1951 to 5117 million marks in 1952. Main investments will be made in heavy industry and the building industry, thus providing the foundation for the expansion of the consumer goods industry and the mechanisation of agriculture.

There will be big increases in the expenditure on education, science and culture. In 1951 a total of 1636 million marks were spent in these fields, and this figure will be increased in 1952 to 2167 million marks. This figure is 381 million greater than had been forseen for 1952 when the Five Year Plan was drawn up. Altogether 7.6 percent of our budget is devoted to educational purposes, compared to one percent in the budget of the United States.

Social services and the health services will cost 6555 million marks, a 17 percent increase over the 1951 figure. In this case, too, the expenditure is much higher than originally foreseen in the Five Year Plan, and we shall be able to carry out this year tasks originally planned for 1953.

There will be an increase of 48 percent in the sum devoted to safety measures in the mines, foundries and factories.

Invalids and old age pensioners have far better conditions here than in West Germany, and this year we shall spend 1359 marks on each person in these categories who is maintained in an institution, compared to 1211 marks in 1951.

The lowest rate of pensions here is one third higher than in West Germany, widows' pensions are 37 percent higher, and orphans' pensions 84 percent higher. The biggest difference is in the children's allowance for pensioners, which is more than twice as high in the German Democratic Republic as in West Germany.

Our support for youth activities and sport is shown by the fact that 743 million marks will be devoted to this purpose. In 1951 it was originally planned to spend 524 million marks, and 640 million were actually spent.

One of our principles in planning our budget is not only to avoid a deficit, but also to pay off systematically the state obligations. This is one of the most important foundations for the stability of our currency. 1524 million marks will be devoted this year to paying off such obligations as the losses which arose from the currency reform, the Provincial Reconstruction Loans dating from the year 1946 and so on.

This is also in great contrast to the state of affairs in West Germany, where the state is becoming more and more indebted. The Federal debt in West Germany grew by 2,200 million marks in 1950 and 1951, and the indebtedness of West German municipalities doubled in the financial year 1951.

The conditions of steady economic development in the German Democratic Republic have made it possible to keep the amount of money in circulation stable, and at the moment it has actually been reduced somewhat compared to last year. This stability can be explained by the fact that our industrial and agricultural production is steadily increasing, that prices are steadily sinking, and that the quantity and assortment of goods available to the public is becoming greater.

In order to carry our financial plans through successfully in the coming year it is necessary that not a pfennig is spent, in any factory or in any office, which is not absolutely necessary. At the same time however the expenditures laid down in the plan for cultural, social and health services must be used to the full; economy here must consist in the most efficient use of the money.

The more economical we are, the faster the German Democratic Republic can develop. The campaign to carry out our financial plan is one of the important ways in which we can contribute to the struggle for the unity of Germany and for the maintenance of peace.

Teachers' Hours reduced in E. Germany

Teachers in East Germany will have fewer classes in the future as the result of a government decision cutting their working time.

Under the new regulations those teaching the six to ten year-olds will take a maximum of 28 classes weekly; those teaching ten to fourteen year-olds a maximum of 26 classes; and those at high schools and special schools a maximum of 24 hours.

Democratic GERMAN REPORT

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Germany.

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UNIVERSITY EDUCATION FOR ALL

By a Berlin Student

The number of students at universities in the German Democratic Republic is scheduled to rise from 26,890 in 1950 to 43,600 in 1955, last year of the Five Year Plan. With our constantly expanding industry, with more schools and hospitals than ever before we need these new engineers and doctors.

The question is: Where can we find them?

In principle any talented young person in East Germany, whether they have had a high school education or not, is entitled to study at our universities. The selection for a place at the university does not depend in any way upon the capacity to pay of the parents of the student concerned.

University students are selected in two ways. The University Commission selects the best from the applicants who have already completed their education up to the age of 18. This selection is not based solely upon scholastic achievement; other factors such as participation in social activities play their part.

The other students come directly from the factories and the fields.

In West Germany...

The Adenauer government allots 76 marks annually per head of the population for education, cultural purposes, and health services.

They are mostly boys and girls who left school at the age of fourteen and who have since shown by the excellent quality of their work that they would benefit from a university training.

Here the selection is made in the first place by the trade union group and the youth group in the factory or village concerned, and the University Commission then makes a final decision.

These young men and women, many of whom last went to school ten years ago under the nazis, cannot be expected to plunge straight into a university course.

They attend instead the "Workers and Peasants Faculties" attached to all the Universities in the German Democratic Republic, and in a three year course of study make up for lost time.

The new methods of selection for students has made a radical change in the social composition of the universities. In 1932 only 5.5 percent of the students at German universities were the sons and daughters of workers and peasants. In 1941, under the nazis, the proportion had dropped even lower, to 4.7 percent.

"What, you are going to the university although your father is only a worker?"
"Not 'although'. Just because."
(From "Frischer Wind")

In 1948, 27 percent of all students in East Germany were the sons of workers and peasants, and by the beginning of this year the proportion had risen to 41 percent and was steadily rising.

With high school study now available to all who wish it, the necessity for the Workers and Peasants Faculties will slowly disappear, but for the time being they are increasing their scope so that all talented young persons can receive a full education, even if they had to leave school early.

In 1950 there were 6000 students studying at the Workers and Peasants Faculties, but the number will be raised to 12,000 by 1955.

All worker and peasant students receive a basic stipendium of 180 marks monthly, plus a whole series of bonuses. For instance students who get top marks in intermediate examinations receive a monthly bonus of 80 marks, and students with good marks get a 40 marks premium monthly.

(The rough proportion of students receiving such premiums can be seen from the fact that in a typical working group of 23 students one is in receipt of the 80 mark bonus and eight have won the 40 mark bonus.)

In student homes the cost of board and lodging does not exceed 75 marks monthly, and tuition etc., is free, so that even the basic stipendium is adequate. Married students and those with children receive special allowances.

A total of 88 percent of all students in the German Democratic Republic were in receipt of such stipendiums in 1952.

Not only the composition of the student body has been altered radically in the past few years. The whole plan of study has been changed. The enormously long vacations formerly customary have been abolished, and instead a ten-month year of study has been introduced,

...In East Germany

The government of the German Democratic Republic allots 125 marks annually per head for education and cultural purposes alone.

lasting from September 1st to July 7th, with a three week break at Christmas.

This ten-month year includes 6 weeks of practical work, which has been extended to all faculties. The future teacher works in a school, the future engineer works in a factory and so on during this practical work period, so that he can see for himself how the theory he is studying is applied in practice.

...and in West Germany

In West Germany, only the sons and daughters of the very well-to-do can devote their full attention to study at the university. High university fees, lack of stipendiums and scholarships, mean that even the children of middle-class parents have to spend so much time working their way through college that their health and study both suffer.

Official West German statistics show that the proportion of university students with tuberculosis has risen from seven percent in 1947 (in the middle of the worst post-war hunger period) to over 11 percent in 1952.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

One day last week I went to watch a bricklayer at work. He was not just any bricklayer, but a man who had won the Stalin Prize for the great improvements he had made in housebuilding methods. Stripped down to his shirtsleeves this Soviet Activist, named Korolev, was laying the last one thousand bricks of one of the great new workers' apartment houses springing up on the Stalin Allee in East Berlin.

Helping him were a team of Germans, today active in the German-Soviet Friendship Society, who had all served in the nazi Wehrmacht, been captured on the Eastern Front, and spent several years as prisoners of war in the Soviet Union. There they had learned the new building methods which they were now using, and there they learned to like and respect the Soviet people.

Picking up Tips

And watching the Soviet bricklayer and his German colleagues as they methodically and without haste laid the bricks were a crowd of Berlin building workers. On March 20th, only three months ago, they had started on the foundations of this great new block, and now the last bricks were being laid on the seventh storey.

I looked around at them. They were watching very closely to see if they could pick up any tips from their Soviet friend, tips which would help them to build the next block even quicker, cheaper and better. And as I watched I could not help thinking of the journalists in the Anglo-American press who still jabber away about "slave labour" in East Europe, and who allege that the Soviet Union is sucking East Germany dry.

No longer Supermen

Some of the bricklayers around me had probably marched into the Soviet Union ten years ago feeling themselves Hitlerian supermen. None of them did any longer. They had seen what the Soviet Union could do to help them, with new methods of work, with encouragement; they had learned useful lessons from the Polish bricklayers who visited them a few weeks ago. Now a Soviet citizen, from the country which they had helped to devastate only a few years ago, had taken off his jacket and was helping them, right there on their building.

And they really feel it is their building. They know that quite a number of the new flats will go to the bricklayers and plasterers who helped to build the place.

That is why it was so exciting watching a few men lay a thousand bricks in the Stalin Allee last week.

Mona Lisa's Smile

Friends in Australia have sent me cuttings from a couple of newspapers there with some new high lights on life in East Germany as it looks to some western journalists. The stories looked as though they had been circulated by an agency, so other readers may well have seen them in other countries.

First specimen is this, from the Melbourne "Age" of May 22nd 1952.

"The riddle of the Mona Lisa smile has at last been solved. Reviewing an art show in Eastern Berlin last week end, a Communist art expert wrote: 'The agonised smile of the Mona Lisa shows that she has identified herself with the sufferings of the progressive working classes'."

Now I read most of the important daily and weekly papers which appear in East Germany, but I must say that this alleged gem escaped me. It is just possible, I suppose, that a demented art critic wrote the lines alleged in some little paper like "The Rabbit Fancier's Gazette", but I doubt it very much. If the Melbourne "Age" will provide me with the name of the East German paper which allegedly printed this "art note," and if the story is true, I shall eat the paper. Or better still, I shall eat the art critic.

If no name is forthcoming I shall just add this specimen to an ever growing file of sheer inventions about East Germany.

The other cutting from Australia, this time from the Melbourne "Argus" dated June 9th, is the other type of story—a mixture of fact and fiction, generally in the proportion one percent fact, 99 percent lie.

The article is written by British correspondent Reginald Peck, and the "fact" it contains is that an East German song-writer once churned out a dance tune with the title "Dear little People's Policewoman."

One or two dance bands played it once or twice, about two years ago, but the lyrics were so weak and the music so bad that it disappeared at once, like a poor dance tune anywhere. Now Mr. Peck has resurrected it and uses it as a peg on which to hang a sensational tale of how "British Secret Service men discovered the importance of jazz."

Bath Tub Agents

These cloak and dagger boys, "specially selected for work in the city, have the tricky job of finding weak spots in Communist defences. They first got on the track of the Red's fear of jazz in a West Berlin night spot known as the Badewanne, or 'Bath Tub'."

(This might be classified as another "fact." Western intelligence agents do in fact hang out in the Badewanne, as GERMAN REPORT disclosed on May 9th, reporting that U.S. agents had recruited a kidnapper there.)

Mr. Peck tells how these British Secret Service agents sent a long report to London, calling for the BBC to "step up the boogie-woogie programmes and cut out lectures on the 'British Way and Purpose'."

Despite all its silliness, Mr. Peck's story may achieve some of its propaganda purpose. He wants to create the impression that any light dance music is banned in East Germany, and that everybodythere is condemned to spend lives of drab uniformity.

No Sinatra Clubs

As a matter of fact, of course, anyone who troubles to tune in to Berlin or Leipzig Radio can hear for themselves that a considerable proportion of the time is given up to dance music, competently played. The Free German Youth often hold dances, and this week-end for instance a huge open-air ball is scheduled on the Marx Engels Platz in the centre of Berlin.

But it is true enough that there are no teen-age clubs of hysterical girls screaming for Frank Sinatra, or Johnnie Ray. Dance music is regarded as something to dance to, and the young men and women of the Free German Youth have more important things to do than form fan clubs.

And whether the BBC transmits boogie-woogie or not makes no difference, since practically no one listens to it anyway.

Pass it Round

Why not hand out a few copies of GERMAN REPORT to people likely to be interested, in your union branch, your church group, or your street? We shall be happy to send you, free and post free, a small package containing some recent issues of the paper.

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